


December 4, 1986

TO: File

FROM: Frank Filas, Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Field Visit To Delta Mine, ACT/015/020, Emery County, Utah

Frank Filas visited the Delta Mine on November 19, 1986. This mine is an underground uranium mine that dates back to the early 1950's. In 1978 Lloyd Mecham of Utah West Mining and Development Company proposed stripping the area immediately above the two existing Delta portals and then to continue mining underground. The project received tentative approval in July, 1978 and a limited amount of mining took place. Mr. Mecham went bankrupt in the spring of 1980 and the Board revoked Tentative Approval soon thereafter for failure to post a reclamation bond.

The mine is located in a steep, heavily eroded canyon with less than one percent vegetation cover. There are numerous prelaw underground uranium workings in this area. The mine site can be reached as is described below:

Travel 30 miles west of Green River on I-70. Take the Ranch Exit and travel southwest for 30.3 miles. At this point there is an abandoned two ton yellow cabbed stake truck. Immediately to the south of the truck are two heavily eroded dirt roads leading off to the right of the main road. Park next to the yellow truck and hike up the upper road for 1/2 mile to the mine site.

The Delta site consists of two adits and the narrow 1/2 mile access road. One adit is caved shut and the other is open and can be easily entered. The waste rock that was created by building the road and by stripping the face of the cliff has been regraded below the road and is essentially indistinguishable from the surrounding area. The operator did not strip as much area as he originally proposed, and the total disturbed area is estimated to be less than two acres. The open adit represents a hazard, but it is probably less of a public risk than the 11 open adits of various prelaw mines that are on the other side of the cliff and visible from the main road.

jvb
cc: W. Hedberg
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